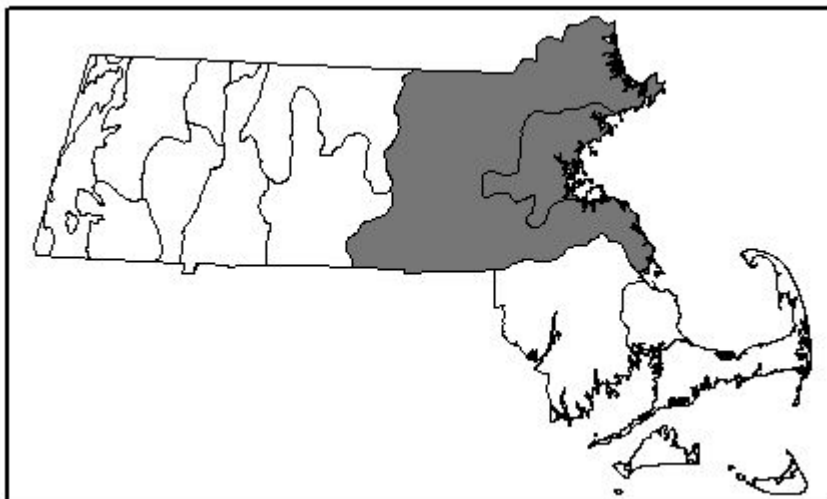


Community Name: MARINE INTERTIDAL: ROCKY SHORE

Community CODE: CM2A000000

SRANK: S2



Concept: A community dominated by invertebrates and non-vascular plants, in a high-stress environment alternately covered by tides and exposed to desiccation and thermal stress.

Environmental setting: Along rocky shores, from the supratidal splash zone to the limits of light penetration in the subtidal zone.

Vegetation Description: The communities of rocky shores are dominated by crustaceans, mollusks, and macroscopic algae. The algae (seaweed) provide cover and food for the animals. The rocky shore community shows a distinct zonation from the splash zone to the zone of complete inundation.

Associations:

Habitat Values for Associated Fauna: This was probably the habitat of the extinct sea mink (*Mustela vison macrodon*). Wintering sea birds such as Northern Gannets (*Morus bassanus*) and Great Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) feed among submerged rocks close to shore. Wintering Purple Sandpipers (*Calidris maritima*) forage among exposed rocks in low tide. The habitat includes tidal pools which support many marine invertebrates.

Associated rare plants:

NONE KNOWN

Associated rare animals:

NONE KNOWN

Examples with Public Access: Halibut Point State Park, Rockport.

Threats:

Management needs:

Synonyms

USNVC/TNC: [Nonvascular Sparse vegetation]

MA (old name): Southern New England/Gulf of Maine Rocky Intertidal Community

ME: Marine: Intertidal bedrock / boulder community..

NH:

NY: Marine rocky intertidal.

CT:

RI: Marine intertidal rocky shore.

Other:

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Date: 1/1/00